

Shift in pattern of crop production

1395. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shift in the pattern of crop production in the Kharif and Rabi seasons, showing an increase in the Rabi crop and corresponding decrease in the Kharif crop; and

(b) if so, what is the analysis of this change and its impact on the future agricultural scene in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The production of both Kharif and Rabi is showing an upward trend in major cereal/pulses crops except for variations in certain years due to agro climatic conditions.

Assistance for setting up cold storages

1396. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is providing all assistance/subsidies for setting up cold storages in States for preservation of dairy, poultry, fishery and floriculture products and other perishables;

(b) whether the National Housing Bank has been appointed as the nodal agency for implementation of such projects;

(c) whether any such proposal from Karnataka for setting up cold storages is under consideration of the NHB and the Centre; and

(d) if so, how soon the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Different Departments and Organisations of the Government of India provide assistance under various schemes for preservation of perishable products. National Housing Bank has not been appointed nodal agency by any Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) As per information made available by NHB (National

Horticulture Board), action has already been initiated by them for clearing four projects for setting up cold storages in the State of Karnataka.

Rehabilitation of earthquake victims in Kutch

1397. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Kutch observed a bandh when the Prime Minister visited the district, to protest against Government's failure to provide a satisfactory rehabilitation package for the earthquake victims; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in rehabilitation of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Government of Gujarat has informed that no such bandh was observed.

(b) The State Government has informed that 'ex-gratia' in case of deaths, assistance for those injured, cash doles and assistance for house-hold kits to the families and assistance for damaged houses have been paid.

Nominating officers for training to foreign institutions

1398. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:'

(a) whether it is a fact that Government nominate officers to foreign institutions for training, for improving their academic, managerial and technical skills in various fields at the of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of persons sent abroad for both the short-term and long-term training courses from the Ministry of Agriculture during the last five years;

(c) the number of persons belonging to SC/ST categories among such persons and their percentage; and